

REMARKS

The comments of the Examiner as set forth in the official office action have been carefully studied and reviewed.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite "further comprising". Claim 23 has been amended to delete a portion of the claim. It is respectfully urged that there is support for claim 23, particularly as amended herein. Note page 10, first paragraph under "Summary of the Invention" where it is stated that in a preferred process it is desirable that the initial NO_x concentration not be reduced more than 50%. Further, on page 14, lines 15 through 20 the specification points out that to ensure that the formation of undesirable byproducts are avoided, it is preferable that the light intensity and residency time be limited to avoid a reduction of more than 50% of the NO_x (total of NO and NO₂) and to avoid a ratio of NO₂/NO of greater than 10. It is respectfully urged that these portions of the specification support claim 23 as amended herein.

Claims 3, 7, 9, 19, 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC §112 for lack of enablement. The Examiner maintains that the claims should be restricted to UV light. Indeed, claim 19 does include a reference to UV light. Even though the claim refers to UV light, paragraph (a) of claim 19 has been amended to refer to UV light.

Claims 3, 7-9, 19-23 stand further rejected under Section 112, 2nd paragraph. Claims 7 and 8 have been dealt with as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner has concerns about the claim term "the concentration" lacking antecedent basis. Respectfully, the ammonia present would have a concentration. That is "concentration" is inherent and the claim is thus not vague or indefinite, nor does the claim fail to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. If the Examiner is still concerned about this point, counsel for Applicant will make every effort to address the concerns of the Examiner in this case. However, again, it is believed that there is not, in reality, an issue concerning antecedent basis in the context of "the concentration" in this case.

Claim 9 has been amended to state that the two stage irradiation process is a part of the irradiation process claimed in claim 19.

Claims 12-18 and 20 and 21 have been canceled.

It is believed that this response places the present application in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 19, 2006